



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Dan Reeves (916) 319-2045

***Autry National Center Receives Funding for the Southwest Museum
from California Culture and Historical Endowment Fund***

LOS ANGELES— With great support from Assistant Majority Leader Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles), the Autry National Center of the American West received a \$160,000 grant last Thursday from the California Culture and Historical Endowment (CCHE) Fund for a rehabilitation project at the Southwest Museum.

Charles Fletcher Lummis, an anthropologist, historian, journalist, and photographer, created the Southwest Society and opened the Southwest Museum in 1907. The museum moved from Downtown Los Angeles to its current location in Mt. Washington in 1914, and has been there ever since. In January 2004, the Museum of the American West merged with the Southwest Museum of the American Indian to form the Autry National Center.

The galleries are closed due to extensive rehabilitation of the building and conservation of its rare collection of Native American artifacts. Plans call for the infrastructure improvements to the Southwest Museum to be completed by 2010, when the building will be open for a new cultural use.

“I would like to commend the Autry National Center for its investment and efforts over these past years to restore the Southwest Museum building, care for its world-class collections, and plan for a vibrant public future on this significant site,” said Assistant Majority Leader Kevin de León.

The CCHE grant received will fund the extension of the museum’s elevator, enabling its expanded service to all floors of the historic building. This would provide disabled visitors, as well as seniors and small children, with full physical access to all public areas of the Southwest Museum. The elevator project is a vital part of the Autry’s overall plan to rehabilitate the building and invigorate the cultural and educational life of the Southwest Museum and its surrounding community.

“We are enormously grateful to the CCHE for their continued support of the Autry’s efforts to revitalize the Southwest Museum. This new award will allow for the safer and more efficient movement of Southwest collections as we continue our multi-year project to save and conserve this priceless cultural resource,” said John L. Gray, President and CEO of the Autry National Center.

This improvement will ensure that visitors in the next 100 years will enjoy a safer, more vibrant space to view artifacts and artwork in the Southwest Museum.

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